



THE INTERIM

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THE INTERIM

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THE INTERIM is a monthly newsletter that reports on the interim activities of legislative committees, including the Legislative Council, the Environmental Quality Council, the Legislative Finance Committee, the Legislative Audit Committee, and interim legislative committees and subcommittees staffed by the Legislative Services Division. Information about the committees, including meeting schedules, agendas, and reports, is found at <http://www.leg.mt.gov>. Follow the "Committees" link or the "Interims" link to the relevant committee. The newsletter is posted on the legislative branch website on the first of each month (follow the "Publications" link).

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee to review state retirement plans...The State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, Sept. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 137 of the state Capitol in Helena. The committee will begin the House Joint Resolution 42 study of state retirement plans. Representatives of the Teachers' Retirement Systems Board, the Public Employees' Retirement Board, the Board of Investments, and staff of those boards will discuss the state's retirement plans.

At the end of the 2005 legislative session, several of the retirement plans appeared to be actuarially unsound. The boards and staff of each board will review the status of the plans since the end of the session.

They will also describe emerging issues associated with the Teachers' Retirement Plan and the various public employee retirement plans. The committee will explore with each board and its staff the purpose, authority, and effect each of the boards and staff have in the investment and management of funds held by the public employee retirement plans. The purpose of the discussion is to shed light on what each board and staff is authorized and required to do for investing retirement funds, how each board and staff executes its duties and authority, and the implications that any board's or staff's actions or inactions may have on the other boards or staff.

Committee staff will review the legislative history of public employee retirement plans and discuss measures adopted by several other states to deal with public employee retirement issues.

State agency reports...Secretary of State Brad Johnson will describe the duties and authority of the Secretary of State, and Major General Randall Mosley will present similar information on the Department of Military Affairs.

The public is invited to attend the meeting and written comments are appreciated. The September meeting agenda will be posted to the committee's website. You can also contact Dave Bohyer at (406) 444-3064 or dbohyer@mt.gov.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Council in for two days...The Legislative Council will meet Thursday and Friday, Sept. 22 and 23 in Helena. Members will conduct a half-day business meeting on Thursday followed by a full-day planning session on Friday.

The Thursday meeting begins at 1 p.m. in Room 152 of the state Capitol. Agenda items include updates on selected interim committee work, appointment of Montana's Uniform State Law Commissioners, an update on legislative publications, and several staff reports.

The planning session on Friday begins at 8 a.m. in the Board of Investments' conference room (2401 Colonial Drive, third floor). The purpose of this session is to identify and prioritize issues to pursue during the interim.

A Publication of  **Legislative Services Division**

If you have questions about council activities, please call Lois Menzies at (406) 444-3066 or send an email message to lomenzies@mt.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

EQC subcommittee breaks ground on HB 790 split estate study...Daryl Sather's backyard is changing, and the Havre farmer says there isn't much he can do about it. Although he owns or leases the land, he does not own the minerals underneath. That means a natural gas developer may build roads, dig ponds, and bury pipelines on his property to extract gas.

While Sather's "backyard" consists of hundreds of acres of northern Montana farmland, he told members of a legislative subcommittee studying oil and gas issues to think how they would react if the flowerbeds and grass around their homes were torn up.

"It's a very trying time for us," said Sather, who along with about 60 other people attended the Aug. 1 meeting of the House Bill 790 subcommittee. That panel is charged with studying split estates as well as reclamation and bonding for oil and gas operations.

The subcommittee of the Environmental Quality Council heard about three hours of public testimony, much of which centered on issues that arise when there is mineral development on split estates – the situation in which one party owns surface rights to land and another party owns the mineral rights below the property.

The subcommittee, which includes lawmakers and appointed citizens, may recommend legislation to the 2007 Legislature.

Patrick Montalban of the Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association said communication between some operators and surface owners may need to be improved, but added that mineral owners lawfully have the right to access their property.

"You will not stop the mineral owner from developing his minerals," Montalban said.

The meeting took place at Montana State University-Northern, which provided a room as well as lunch. In the afternoon, the subcommittee and others toured Sather's property along with representatives of the mineral developer, Klabzuba Oil and Gas, Inc.

While Sather had concerns about energy development on his property, he praised Klabzuba for the company's willingness to work with him.

Cole Chandler of Klabzuba, said the company knows development affects the land, but with reclamation the effects are temporary. He likened the relationship of a mineral owner and a surface owner to a marriage: there are likely to be problems, but good communication can solve most of them.

"We live here; our numbers are in the phone book. We have to live with what we do," Chandler said. "We are very proud of what we do."

The subcommittee will meet in Helena at 8 a.m. on Sept. 15 in Room 102 of the Capitol. The panel is scheduled to decide on future meeting locations, adopt a work plan, and hear expert testimony on current oil and gas regulations as well as split estate law. A full agenda of the September meeting will be available on the EQC webpage.

EQC, subcommittees to meet in September...The subcommittees of the Environmental Quality Council will meet in Helena on Thursday, Sept. 15. In addition to the HB 790 subcommittee, the EQC study subcommittee will meet at 1 p.m. in Room 137 of Capitol, while the EQC agency oversight subcommittee will meet at 8 a.m. in Room 172. The full EQC will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 16 in Room 102.

QUALITY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Full slate of meetings in September...The Quality Schools Interim Committee will meet five times in September. The first meeting was a 3-day affair on Aug. 30-Sept. 1. The other meetings are scheduled for Sept. 8, 14, 23, and 28. Agendas for these meetings will be available on the committee's webpage after Sept. 1. Please note that the Sept. 14 meeting may be rescheduled to another day that week.

Final report presented in two phases...On Aug. 30, R.C. Wood & Associates, the consultant hired to help the committee design a school funding formula, presented phase one of its report: the data from and analyses of the needs assessment and the other survey instruments, along with analyses of the costs of providing a basic system of quality schools as defined in Senate Bill 152. The committee spent the next two days discussing philosophical considerations and the policy decisions necessary for constructing a school funding formula (see next month's newsletter for additional coverage).

Phase two of R.C. Wood's report to the committee will include all of the cost analyses and rationale presented on Aug. 30, along with a description of the study methods and procedures, documentation of all sources used in the study, and appendices. The committee chose this two-phase format so that the consultant could devote all of its time prior to Aug. 30 to analyzing the data and focusing on the cost analyses rather than splitting the time between the cost analyses and drafting and editing the supporting document. The final report will be completed on or before Oct. 15.

Weekly meetings in September, public hearings in October...The committee will meet every week in September in order to complete its work so that staff can begin drafting the legislation implementing the new school funding formula in early October. In late October, the committee will hold a series of public hearings around the state. This will give the general public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed legislation. A list of times and places for the public

hearings will be available in mid-September and will be listed in the October **INTERIM**.

Information on the Web...As usual, information on the work of the committee is available on the committee's webpage by going to the legislative website at www.leg.mt.gov. Or you may contact Connie Erickson at (406) 444-3078 or cerickson@mt.gov.

EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Subcommittees to meet in October...The Local Government Subcommittee and the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee will meet on Oct. 6 at the Capitol building. The Local Government subcommittee will convene in Room 137 and PEPB in Room 102. The full committee will not meet until Dec. 2.

Details of the subcommittee meetings will appear on their respective webpages, which are accessible from the committee's main webpage. For more information about the Education and Local Government Committee, the committee structure, or the Local Government subcommittee's activities, contact Leanne Kurtz at (406) 444-3593 or lekurtz@mt.gov. For more information about PEPB, contact Alan Peura at (406) 444-2086 or at apeura@mt.gov.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Licensing boards, agency monitoring scheduled for September meeting...The Economic Affairs Interim Committee will hear from representatives of the Board of Investments and the Departments of Agriculture and Livestock at a Sept. 9 meeting in Room 102 of the Capitol. The meeting starts at 9 a.m. with short reports from the agencies and reports on the latest steps to implement Senate Bill 133, which created the Montana Capital Equity Investment Board.

The committee will also discuss policies related to licensing boards. The discussion will include information from a survey taken as part of the Senate Joint Resolution 35 study of licensing boards. In addition, members of the Board of Landscape Architects will discuss a letter from the Department of Labor and Industry regarding a suspension of the board's activities because of budget constraints.

An agenda and meeting materials are available on the committee's website or from Pat Murdo, committee staff, at (406) 444-3594 or pmurdo@mt.gov.

REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Revenue update at September meeting...The Revenue and Transportation Committee will meet at 9 a.m., Sept. 30 in Room 137 of the Capitol. Terry Johnson, Legislative Fiscal Division, will report on fiscal year 2005 revenue collections, and the committee will discuss with the fiscal division and the governor's budget office which sources of revenue should be revisited for the special session expected in December. Although the agenda is still being developed, some other items scheduled for the meet-ing include:

- study plans for the House Joint Resolution 43 study of the valuation of agricultural land and the House Joint Resolution 44 study of the property taxation oil and gas production property;
- a report on federal highway funding reauthorization legislation; and
- a report on the activities of the Quality Schools Interim Committee.

The agenda for the meeting will be available on the committee's webpage by mid-September. For more information about the committee, please contact Jeff Martin, committee staff, at (406) 444-3595 or jmartin@mt.gov.

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE CENTER

Feeling Clusty?...Say hello to Clusty, the clustering search engine from clustering pioneer Vivisimo. A clustering search engine, in case you haven't used one, will organize your result list on the fly into logical categories, according to topic or Web address. This indexing feature provides a very handy way for researchers to quickly locate relevant hits by topic. Rather than plowing through a lengthy list of conventional hits from a leading search engine such as Google, users can see at a glance a perfectly stacked list of results by category.

Clusty, like its forefather Vivisimo, is a meta-search engine that snoops through a number of other search engines in one go-round. For instance, if you were looking for information on diabetes, Clusty (<http://www.clusty.com>), would automatically organize the links it finds into categories such as treatment, healthcare, diet, drugs, programs, research, diabetes associations, diabetes mellitus, etc. How tidy--librarians love this!

Clusty also lets users move easily from searching the Web at large to specifying precise sources of information to look through. All you need to do is to select a new tab for news, images, encyclopedia entries, or even shopping sites to turn up a hit list with results from those sources. News searches can also be directed to world news, U.S. news, or business, policy, technical, or science news.

Important note... Vivisimo has applied its software to

the FirstGov index. Using the main Vivisimo search page (<http://vivisimo.com/>), type a search and select "FirstGov" from the drop-down list to the immediate right of the search box. FirstGov (<http://www.firstgov.gov>) is the U.S. government's official website and contains information from

all branches of the federal government, including legislative information.

Don't forget Montana...The Montana legislative branch website (<http://www.mt.gov>) has some great stuff. As well as tons of information from the 2005 session, there's agendas, reports, and minutes (complete with linked exhibits) from the various committees that are meeting this interim.

And we're always adding new information, so check back frequently. If you have any questions about Internet research generally, or legislative research specifically, please contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, legislative librarian, at Ljackson@mt.gov or (406) 444-2957.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee takes on interim studies, meets in October... The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee met on Aug. 22 and dove right in to the difficult topics of the Senate Joint Resolution 41 study of mental health crisis response system (see this month's **Back Page** for a related article) and the SJR 37 study of child protective services.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services provided updates on budgets and new programs and introduced Joan Miles, the department's new director. The committee adopted its work plan and will meet on Oct. 20 and 21. One panel will discuss the many parts of the child protective services system and another panel will identify the primary stakeholders in developing mental health crisis response systems.

Ways to Participate...Stakeholders who want to participate in the studies should contact Susan Byorth Fox at (406) 444-3597 or sfox@mt.gov. Persons who want to be on the interested persons list can sign up for electronic notices at the committee website or contact Fong Hom at (406) 444-0502 or fhom@mt.gov to be placed on the hard copy mailing list.

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Committee sets priorities for the interim...The Law and Justice Interim Committee held its first meeting of the interim on Tuesday, July 26. Rep. John Parker was elected chair and Sen. Dan McGee was elected vice chair.

The committee adopted a work plan that calls for

eight meetings, three of which involve two-day meetings for a total of 11 meeting days. The committee also set its priorities by allocating committee resources and staff time (as a percentage of total time and resources available) as follows:

- SJR 6 study of civil legal services for moderate and low-income people, 35%
- SJR 40 study of county attorney services, 25%
- HJR 15 study of sentencing equity (staff white paper), 15%
- Follow-up to SB 146 (Public Defender Act), 10%
- Agency monitoring, 10%
- SJR 37 coordination with the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee on child protective services study (requested by Legislative Council), 5%

Committee to meet in September...The committee is scheduled to meet on Sept. 21 and 22 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 102 of the Capitol. The first day will be devoted primarily to the SJR 6 study, while the second day will be devoted to the SJR 40 study.

For additional details on agenda items and activities, please see the work plan on the committee's webpage accessible from www.leg.mt.gov.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG UPDATE

Do you have questions about Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits?...As legislators, you may be receiving calls from your constituents on the new federal prescription drug benefit called Medicare Part D. This new benefit was part of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, these plans will provide benefits to people with Medicare. Insurance plans will begin marketing on Oct. 1, 2005. The initial enrollment begins Nov. 15 and runs through May 15, 2006. This is a voluntary program, but requires your constituents to make choices and enroll in the program. Some people will be automatically enrolled, but will be able to choose a different plan later on.

This benefit will interact with Medicaid eligibility and there will be a federal low-income subsidy or a state low-income subsidy for others. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is working on making an easy transition for people who may be eligible for both programs and is working on the state subsidy program, too. If you or your constituents need help, contact:

- State Health Insurance Assistance Program, for local SHIP resources and assistance: 1-800-551-

- 3191
- 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-633-4227 or www.Medicare.gov
- AARP at 1-406-457-4713
- Legislative contacts: Susan Byorth Fox, LSD (406) 444-3597, or Lois Steinbeck, LFA (406) 444-5391

The **Back Page** in the Oct. 2004 issue of **THE INTERIM** provided a detailed analysis of the Medicare Modernization Act. If you did not save your printed copy of that issue, you can find it on the legislative branch homepage under the "Publications" link.

TIME AND TIDE

(Tempus fugit)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Days remaining</u>
Special session? (Dec. xx, 2005)	±104
Date for completion of interim committee work (Sept. 15, 2006)	380
General election (Nov. 7, 2006)	433
60th Legislature convenes (Jan. 3, 2007)	490

THE BACK PAGE

THE PUZZLE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF MENTAL ILLNESS: NOW OR LATER.

By Susan Byorth Fox,
Legislative Research Analyst

NOT AN ORDINARY JIGSAW PUZZLE

A teenager spends the weekend in jail because there is no safe transportation to a psych unit over two hundred miles away. A young woman ends up with a \$1,400 emergency room bill following the direction of law enforcement to get an evaluation, but her public mental health program doesn't cover it. In a stand-off downtown, a man barricades himself in his room threatening suicide. These are real cases in Montana that involve our community, friends, and families.

The human and financial costs of mental illness are staggering. Human costs include suffering, strained relationships with family and community, disability, suicide, or addiction. We see evidence of the social costs in paying for treatment and in the costs of homelessness, unemployment, involuntary commitments, crime, delinquency, incarceration, recidivism, or uncompensated care. People suffering from mental illness or serious emotional disturbance pay personally and families, employers, insurers, providers, hospitals and emergency rooms, and county, state, and federal government also bear part of the costs. In essence, all taxpayers and those who are lucky to have health insurance pay the costs of mental illness.

An element of the cost of mental illness is now under study. The Montana Legislative Council assigned Senate Joint Resolution No. 41 study of the development of mental health crisis response system to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee. Piecing together a mental health crisis response system is a complicated task that reminds me of Sudoku--a Japanese puzzle form. This puzzle has a 9x9 grid. In each row and column, the numbers 1 through 9 may appear only once. Easy enough, except the puzzle is further divided into 3x3 regions, and within each region, each number may appear only once. You have to keep track of at least three contingencies at all times with only a few clues to help solve the puzzle. The development of a mental health crisis response system, I fear, is as difficult as the most "fiendish" Sudoku puzzle. Each puzzle has few certainties but many contingencies; each puzzle is an exercise in patience and logic. However, with mental illness people's lives are on the line.

GRIM STATISTICS

In piecing together a mental illness crisis response system, there are a variety of "contingencies" to consider:

- Services).
- Twenty-one percent of children nine to 17 years of age have a diagnosable mental or addictive disorder that causes at least minimal impairment. (The Campaign for Mental Health Reform).
- The most serious and disabling conditions affect 2.6 percent to 5.4 percent of adults, and 5 percent to 9 percent of children 5 to 17 years of age in the United States (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill).
- Economic costs of untreated mental illness are more than \$100 billion each year in the United States (NAMI).
- Despite the physiological nature of mental illness, insurance products treat mental illnesses differently than physical illness. Insurance may not cover all needed services, especially prescription drugs, or services may be subject to maximum lifetime limits and caps.
- Nineteen percent of all Montanans are uninsured (State Planning Grant, 2004).
- In Montana, the number of uninsured children under 18 years of age is rising, to about 16.3 percent in 2002-2003 (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).
- Many in crisis first access services through involuntary evaluation or commitment in the most highly restrictive, expensive place for services: a public mental hospital. The Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs is the public facility for adults. For children, only private facilities exist and may require that payment be assured before admission. Often, treatment is obtained through the criminal justice system.
- Just over half the people admitted to Montana State Hospital in fiscal year 2004 were served by the public mental health system through Medicaid or the general fund program, while 25 percent had Medicare or private insurance. Nearly one-quarter of those admitted were uninsured (DPHHS/AMDD).
- The Department of Corrections estimates that 16 percent to 24 percent of the inmates in the state's correctional system have mental illness, and their treatment costs in prison are borne by the general fund (DOC, 2/7/2002).
- Mental disorders affect one in five Americans in one year (U.S. Department of Health and Human

FINDING THE PIECES

In the post-session poll of interim studies, legislators ranked the SJR 41 study as one of the top 10 studies. It provides an opportunity to develop a mental health crisis response system in conjunction with the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Persons with mental illness, families, advocates, and communities must advise policymakers

about their needs for crisis prevention and response. Policymakers will have to weigh these needs and associated costs and provide policy direction to the department which must, in turn, develop services and integrate them into the existing system. The Legislature will have to determine how to fund the services.

Funding, a major contingency, is vital to the development of services statewide. The state public mental health system is supported by the general fund, federal block grants, and Medicaid. Counties contribute about 1.1 percent of the addictive and mental disorders budget through intergovernmental transfers. Less obvious are the counties' responsibilities for precommitment costs such transportation, evaluation, and detention and inmate medical costs in jails. Outside of the state public mental health and criminal justice systems, costs fall, directly or indirectly, upon schools, homeless shelters, and providers such as mental health centers and emergency rooms. And individuals bear the direct costs: suicide, long-term disability, medical debt, and poor health.

Another contingency in the puzzle is health care insurance. The State Health Watch reported in August 2005 that Montana is one of six states in which health insurance premiums for families are at least \$1,500 higher due to unreimbursed cost of physical and mental health care for the uninsured. By 2010, premiums will be \$2,190 higher for those families who have insurance and more than \$820 higher for individuals. Higher premiums, in fact, make up nearly two-thirds of uncompensated care costs, while federal, state, and local programs up to another third. Philanthropy contributes between 1 and 2 percent. The cost of private insurance will be on average 8.5 percent higher in 2005 to make up for the uncompensated care. Mental illness coverage directly or indirectly must contribute to uncompensated care costs.

MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE PARITY

The level of health insurance coverage itself may contribute to the amount of uncompensated care which may precipitate a vicious cycle. Insurance benefits for mental health services vary widely across the country and may be different from the benefits for physical health care. Equal benefits are considered parity. Parity has various forms in both federal laws and laws in other states.

The Montana Legislature enacted "partial" parity in 1999 (Ch. 348, L. 1999). The law requires coverage for seven disorders defined as "severe mental illness." The level of individual and group benefits for these illnesses may not be less favorable than for physical illness generally. However, if a mental disorder is not on the list, group coverage for mental illness, alcoholism, and drug addiction is allowed to have set benefit levels, including 21 days of inpatient treatment and annual and lifetime maximum benefits. The Legislature last changed the benefit levels in 1999 (Ch. 477, L. 1999). Montana also allows "barebones" policies in a demonstration project to exclude parity or equal coverage for

severe mental illness (Ch. 325, L. 2003).

Congress enacted the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996. The act requires that annual or lifetime dollar limits on mental health benefits be no lower than any dollar limits in a group health plan. However, the law gives employers discretion regarding the extent and scope of mental health benefits such as cost-sharing, limits on visits or days of coverage, and medical necessity requirements. The law also does not apply to individual plans. Nor does it apply if it would result in an increase in the cost of coverage of at least 1 percent. Most significant, it doesn't apply to employers who have between two and 50 employees. The federal law has had limited effect in Montana because 57 percent of the uninsured in the state are employed by employers with 50 or fewer employees (State Planning Grant Final Report, 2004).

A study by Mathematica on what happened when Vermont implemented mental health and substance abuse parity concluded that employers did not drop health insurance coverage. Also, access to outpatient mental health services improved, consumer spending declined, and health plan spending did not rise substantially. On the negative side, the study showed that access to substance abuse treatment declined and that consumers were largely unaware of benefit changes and needed more education on how the program worked. Vermont uses managed care to help control costs but a similar level of coverage is not now possible in Montana because of the limited market. Increasing consumer education and any changes in substance abuse treatment levels would be important considerations in Montana.

One of the problems in trying to insure the uninsured, and which can exacerbate the vicious cycle, is that costs of health care coverage are important in whether individuals or families can afford health insurance or whether employers will offer it. Insurance costs also determine how many people may be eligible under government programs. Any kind of mandate will contribute to the costs, but policymakers must balance concern over direct insurance costs with the potential benefit of covered prevention and treatment of certain disorders. The concerns are relevant regarding mandates for parity in private health insurance, and also regarding services required for coverage in government-funded programs such as Medicaid, CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), prescription drug assistance, workers' compensation, and state employee benefits for mental illness and substance use disorders.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Another uncertainty that complicates the ability to solve the mental illness puzzle involves prescription drug costs. Advances in prescription drugs for mental illness have been dramatic in recent years and are important in controlling mental illness. Between 70 and 90 percent of individuals have a significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with a combination of pharmacological and psychosocial treatment and support services (NAMI).

Coverage of the costs of prescription drugs come in many forms: through health insurance or government programs such as Medicaid, CHIP, or the general fund Mental Health Services Plan. Recent or proposed changes in those programs' benefits, or new formulas, Medicare Part D prescription coverage, Medicaid waivers, and the Prescription Drug Access and Discount Programs funded through the tobacco tax will require the patience of a Sudoku puzzle solver and the logic to understand and integrate.

SOLVING THE PUZZLE?

There are many, perhaps too many, contingencies that must be taken into account before the problem of too many people with mental illness going untreated can be solved. These people need a safety net, traditionally provided by state and county governments. Both pay for mental health services and are the default payers in crises. Both have been responsible for these costs and necessary in supporting the development of a new system--it is a question of proportion.

Imposition of caps on local taxing authorities and dependence on state surpluses are legitimate policy options, but may ignore the dual and historic responsibility of providing a safety net. New contingencies in the puzzle include the Service Area Authorities and their eventual interaction with the traditional regional community mental health centers and the more than one thousand private providers that should be part of the development of a successful crisis response system.

Just as we all pay the costs of mental illness and crises as a society, we all have pieces of the puzzle. Community members, taxpayers, and insureds hold pieces. Any solution to the puzzle requires an analysis of all of the costs, both financial and human. Some of the costs are associated with not dealing with mental health up front and those needed for an investment into a system that is built on prevention and early intervention to provide resiliency and recovery. Sudoku as fiendish as it may get has nothing on mental illness.



INTERIM CALENDAR

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, ALL ROOM DESIGNATIONS ARE IN THE CAPITOL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2005						
				1 Quality Schools Committee, Room 317, 9 a.m.	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Quality Schools Committee, Room 137, 9 a.m.	9 State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Committee, Room 137, 8:30 a.m. Economic Affairs Committee, Room 102, 9 a.m.	10
11	12	13	14 Quality Schools Committee, Room 137, 9 a.m. (Tentative)	15 Environmental Quality Council Subcommittees: Agency Oversight, Room 172, 8 a.m.; Assigned Studies, Rm 137, 1 p.m.; HB 790 Split Es- tates, Room 102, 8 a.m.	16 Environmental Quality Council, Room 102, 8:30 a.m.	17
18	19	20	21 Law and Justice Committee, Room 102, 8:30 a.m.	22 Law and Justice Committee, Room 102, 8:30 a.m. Energy and Telecommunications Committee, Room 137 Legislative Council, Room 152, 1 p.m.	23 Legislative Council, Board of Invest- ments conference room (2401 Colonial Drive, third floor), 8 a.m. Quality Schools Committee, Room 137, 9 a.m.	24
25	26	27	28 Quality Schools Committee, Room 137, 9 a.m.	29	30 Revenue and Trans- portation Committee, Room 137, 9 a.m.	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2005						1
2	3	4	5	6 Local Government Subcommittee, Room 137 Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Sub- committee, Room 102	7 Legislative Finance Committee, Room 102, 8:30 a.m.	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee	21 Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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